

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 24 and 25 and cancel claim 2 as follows. A complete listing of the current pending claims is provided below and supersedes all previous claim list(s).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of storing data into a database, comprising:
 - identifying data to store into a database;
 - determining if schema metadata that is used to load the data into the database already exists;
 - using the existing schema metadata to load the data into the database if the schema metadata already exists; and
 - generating an in memory representation of the schema metadata to load the data into the database if the schema metadata does not already exist;
 - determining if schema-specific load structures that is used to load the data into the database already exists;
 - using the existing schema-specific load structures to load the data into the database if the schema-specific load structures already exists; and
 - generating the schema-specific load structures to load the data into the database if the schema-specific load structures do not exist.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1[[2]] in which the schema-specific load structures comprise at least one of array column, data stream, dispatch table entry or allocated address space in memory.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the schema metadata comprises at least one of column type, column number or column identifier.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the schema metadata is protocol neutral.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the schema metadata can be used by multiple different protocol-based load procedures.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 in which the multiple different protocol-based load procedures comprise the File Transfer Protocol and the Hypertext Transfer Protocol.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the schema metadata is cached in memory.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the data is loaded using multiple streams of load operations.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 in which the multiple streams are loaded in parallel.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a client application receiving data;
 - determining one or more routines that are associated with a type of said data, wherein said one or more routines are implemented by a program that is external to both said client application and a database server that manages said database; in response to said one or more routines being invoked, said program performing steps comprising:
 - determining one or more first values that are specified in said data, wherein said one or more first values correspond to one or more attributes of said type; and
 - determining one or more second values that correspond to one or more hidden columns of one or more tables in said database;
 - generating, based on said one or more first values and said one or more second values, a data stream that conforms to a format of data blocks of said database; and
 - writing said data into one or more data blocks in said database.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

in response to said one or more routines being invoked, said program performing
steps comprising:

creating a data structure that comprises:

one or more first elements that correspond to said one or more attributes; and
one or more second elements that correspond to said one or more hidden columns;
populating said one or more first elements with said one or more first values; and
populating said one or more second elements with said one or more second values;
wherein said generating of said data stream is based on said data structure.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein said data structure is created in memory
that is associated with said client application.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein at least one of said one or more second
values is associated with said one or more first values and distinguishes said one or more
first values from other values in said data.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein at least one of said one or more second
values describes a position of said one or more first values relative to other values in said
data.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein a number of attributes of said type is not
defined to said client application.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein a type of an attribute of said type of said
data is not defined to said client application.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said generating and said writing are
performed without causing a Structured Query Language (SQL) engine to load said data.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein determining said one or more routines comprises locating addresses of one or more routines that are in a same entry as an identity of said type.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

adding, to a table, an entry that indicates an association between said type and said one or more routines.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

invoking one or more routines that are located at one or more addresses that are associated with said type.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

a client application receiving the data that conforms to a first type definition that indicates one or more first attributes, wherein at least one of said one or more first attributes is of a type that is defined by a second type definition that indicates one or more second attributes;

determining one or more first routines that are associated with said first type definition, wherein said one or more first routines are external to both said client application and a database server that manages said database;

in response to one or more calls to said one or more first routines:

creating a first data structure with one or more first elements that correspond to said one or more first attributes; and

populating said one or more first elements with one or more first values that are specified in said data, wherein said one or more first values correspond to said one or more first attributes;

in response to one or more calls to one or more second routines that are associated with said second type definition:

creating a second data structure with one or more second elements that correspond to said one or more second attributes; and

populating said one or more second elements with one or more second values that are specified in said data, wherein said one or more second values correspond to said one or more second attributes;

generating, based on said first data structure and said second data structure, a data stream that conforms to a format of data blocks of said database; and

writing said data into one or more data blocks in said database.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising:

generating a set identifier that is associated with one of said one or more first elements; and

populating a plurality of elements in said second data structure with said set identifier.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for storing data into a database, comprising:

means for identifying data to store into a database;

means for determining if schema metadata that is used to load the data into the database already exists;

means for using the existing schema metadata to load the data into the database if the schema metadata already exists; and

means for generating an in memory representation of the schema metadata to load the data into the database if the schema metadata does not already exist;

means for determining if schema-specific load structures that is used to load the data into the database already exists;
means for using the existing schema-specific load structures to load the data into the database if the schema-specific load structures already exists; and
means for generating the schema-specific load structures to load the data into the database if the schema-specific load structures do not exist.

25. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having executable code to execute a process for storing data into a database, the process comprising:

instructions for identifying data to store into a database;
instructions for determining if schema metadata that is used to load the data into the database already exists;
instructions for using the existing schema metadata to load the data into the database if the schema metadata already exists; and
instructions for generating an in memory representation of the schema metadata to load the data into the database if the schema metadata does not already exist;
instructions for determining if schema-specific load structures that is used to load the data into the database already exists;
instructions for using the existing schema-specific load structures to load the data into the database if the schema-specific load structures already exists; and
instructions for generating the schema-specific load structures to load the data into the database if the schema-specific load structures do not exist.